

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

WAYNE ALAN WATSON,
TDCJ #414565,
Plaintiff,

v.

NATHANIEL QUARTERMAN, *et al.*,
Defendants.

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CIVIL ACTION NO. H-06-3260

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION
TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS**

The plaintiff, Wayne Alan Watson (TDCJ #414565), is an inmate in custody of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Correctional Institutions Division (collectively, “TDCJ”). He has filed suit under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, alleging violations of his civil rights. The plaintiff has also filed a motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* (Doc. # 2) and a motion for appointment of counsel (Doc. # 3). Each motion is addressed below.

This case is governed by the Prison Litigation Reform Act (the “PLRA”), 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b), which requires impecunious prisoners to pay an initial partial filing fee. The PLRA also requires prisoners to pay thereafter the balance of the full filing fee. For complaints filed after April 10, 2006, such as the one in this case, the fee is \$350. Accordingly, based on the certified inmate trust account statement attached to plaintiff’s motion, the Court **ORDERS** as follows:

1. The application for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* (Doc. # 2) is **GRANTED**.

2. The plaintiff is assessed an initial partial filing fee of \$8.00. The agency having custody of the plaintiff shall collect this amount from the plaintiff's inmate trust fund account or institutional equivalent, when funds are available, and forward it to the Clerk.

3. Thereafter, the plaintiff shall pay \$342.00, the balance of the filing fees, in periodic installments as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b). The agency shall collect this amount from the plaintiff's trust account, when funds are available, and forward it to the Clerk.

4. The plaintiff is responsible for signing all consents and other documents required by the agency having custody of plaintiff to authorize the necessary withdrawal from the plaintiff's inmate trust account.

5. Failure to pay the initial partial filing fee or to show that the plaintiff has insufficient assets or means by which to pay the initial partial filing fee within 30 days may result in a dismissal of the plaintiff's complaint without further notice.

6. Service of process will be withheld pending judicial screening pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915A.

7. No amendments or supplements to the complaint will be filed without prior Court approval. A complete amended complaint will be attached to any motion to amend.

8. All discovery in this case is stayed until the Court enters an order to answer.

9. No motions for appointment of counsel shall be considered until the Court has completed its screening pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, which may include a hearing under

Spears v. McCotter, 766 F.2d 179 (5th Cir. 1985). Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the plaintiff's pending motion for counsel (Doc. #3) is **DENIED** at this time as premature.

10. The plaintiff must notify the court of any change of address by filing a written notice of change of address with the Clerk. Failure to file such notice may result in this case being dismissed for want of prosecution.

NOTICE TO THE PLAINTIFF:


A. Although you have been granted permission to proceed as a pauper, you must pay the full filing fee when funds are available under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b). If you do not wish to pay the full filing fee, you must notify the court in writing, by letter or motion, that you do not wish to prosecute this civil action. Your notice must be received by the Court within 30 days of the date of this order.

B. Payment of all or any part of the full filing fee will not prevent dismissal of the complaint if it is frivolous, malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. If the case is dismissed on any of those grounds before payment of the entire filing fee, the plaintiff must still pay the entire filing fee. When a prisoner has had three or more prior actions or appeals dismissed for being frivolous, malicious, or failing to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, federal law prohibits the prisoner from bringing any more actions or appeals *in forma pauperis* unless the plaintiff is in imminent danger of serious physical injury. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

C. State law requires the forfeiture of good conduct time credits as a sanction for any state or federal lawsuit brought by an inmate while in the custody of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, or confined in county jail awaiting transfer to TDCJ, that is dismissed as frivolous or malicious. *See* TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. § 498.0045. This sanction extends to frivolous proceedings arising from an application for writ of habeas corpus if brought for the purpose of abusing judicial resources. *See id.* § 498.0045(a).

The Clerk of Court will send a copy of this order to the parties, to TDCJ - Office of the General Counsel, Capitol Station, P.O. Box 13084, Austin, Texas 78711, fax 512-936-2159, and to the Inmate Trust Fund, P.O. Box 629, Huntsville, Texas 77342-0629, fax 936-437-4793.

SIGNED at Houston, Texas, on **November 2, 2006**.



Nancy F. Atlas
United States District Judge